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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/820,973	
	Filing Date	March 29, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Steve W. Braun, et al.	
	Group Art Unit	2874	
	Examiner Name		
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	50777/251099

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
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Firm or Individual name	Michael J. Turton, Reg. No. 40,852
Signature	
Date	4.22.04

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Steve W. Braun

SERIAL NO.: 09/820,973

GROUP ART UNIT: 2874

FILED: March 29, 2001

EXAMINER:

FOR: OPTICAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 50777/251099

Date: 4/22/04

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Sir:

In accordance with Rules 56, 97 and 98 of the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98), the publications listed on the modified Form PTO/SB/08 are enclosed with this submission for consideration by the Examiner.

Submission of the references provided in this Information Disclosure is not intended to constitute an admission that any reference referred to herein is prior art for this invention unless specially designated as such. Also, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e). The undersigned states that each item cited in this paper was cited in related international search reports not more than three months from filing this paper. Therefore, no fee is believed to be

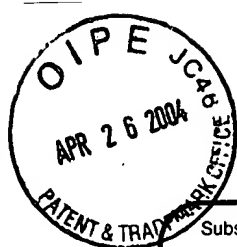
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Turton', is written over a horizontal line.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/820,973
Date Filed:	March 29, 2001
First Named Inventor	Braun
Group Art Unit	2874
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	50777/251099

U. S PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		4,545,074	10/01/1985	Balliet, et al.	
		2002/0018260 A1	02/14/2002	Kisovec, et al.	
		6,449,072 B1	09/10/2002	Sian, et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ³
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		0 380 341 A2	08/01/1990	Europe		
		1 246 378 A2	10/02/2002	Europe		

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		International Search Report in related Application No. PCT/US03/30326	
		International Search Report in related Application No. PCT/US03/29970	

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